



# THE ELECTION Connection

KING COUNTY ELECTIONS | JANUARY 2012

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## Find your district with "Find My District"

The King County Districting Committee recently redrew King County Council Districts to make each district as nearly equal in population as possible. By law, district boundaries must be realigned every 10 years to reflect changes in population throughout the county. The County Council used new 2010 Census data to redraw district boundaries.



Find your districts online with the Elections department's Find My District lookup tool

Voters can find their county council districts all in one place with the newly updated King County Elections [Find My District](#) online lookup tool.

King County Elections will also add new legislative and congressional districts to the [Find My District](#) tool when they are adopted by the state legislature. The state legislature may adopt the new legislative and congressional districts as early as February 7, 2012.

In 2012, the new legislative and congressional boundaries are relevant for the August 7 Primary Election and the November 6 General Election.

King County Elections will send voter notification cards to all voters in May 2012, even to those voters whose districts do not change with redistricting. The notification cards will include the voter's information on county council, legislative, and congressional districts.

For information on county redistricting, visit the King County Council redistricting [website](#) or call the committee at 206-296-0335.

For details about legislative and congressional redistricting, visit the Washington State Redistricting Committee [website](#) or call the committee at 360-786-0770.

## Resolve to exercise your right to vote in 2012

Hitting the treadmill or motivating to go to that new yoga class may be hard, but exercising your right to vote is easy. Start the new year off right by resolving to take the necessary step to exercise your right to vote: register to vote or update your registration if you have recently moved or changed your name.

[kingcounty.gov/elections](http://kingcounty.gov/elections)

Register or update your registration [online](#), [by mail](#), or [in person](#) at Elections headquarters in Renton or the voter registration annex in Seattle.

## Make sure your vote counts: contact Elections to fix signature issues

For your security, King County Elections verifies that the signature on your ballot matches the signature on file from your voter registration. If the two signatures do not match, Elections will not open and count your ballot until we have resolved the signature discrepancy with you.



Election workers verify each ballot return envelope to make sure the signature there matches the signature on the voter's registration

The Elections Department attempts to contact all voters whose signatures do not match or who have another signature issue. We encourage voters to respond promptly when contacted, so that we can work with them to resolve the signature issue in time to count their ballot.

Voters can help to avoid signature issues by returning their ballots early and signing the declaration on the back of the return envelope with their official signature. For more information about signing your ballot, watch a short [video](#) on the Elections website.

Voters who have returned their ballots can use the [ballot tracker](#) on the Elections website to confirm that Elections has received their ballot and credited them with voting.

Contact Elections at 206-296-VOTE (8683) for questions or to resolve a signature issue.

## Elections now provides Vietnamese language assistance

King County Elections now offers print and online election information and materials in Vietnamese. The 2010 U.S. Census found that Vietnamese-speaking voters meet requirements for minority language assistance.

The Voting Rights Act requires counties to provide minority language assistance for elections to groups with 10,000, or five percent of voting-age citizens, that are unable to sufficiently speak or understand English enough to take part in voting.

King County already provides elections materials in Chinese.

For election information in Chinese, visit the [website](#) or call 206-296-1554. For election information in Vietnamese, visit the [website](#) or call 206-205-3667.

Please let our staff know if you need language assistance in Chinese or Vietnamese.

如果您需要中文協助請告知我們的工作人員。

Vui lòng cho chúng tôi biết nếu quý vị cần trợ giúp Tiếng Việt.



Sign posted at an accessible voting center during the 2011 General Election

## See democracy in action: "do the loop"

Do you love civics? The right to vote? The excitement of election season? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then consider a trip during the next election to King County Elections where visitors are welcome to observe democracy in action on a tour of our facility.

Our facility features a self-guided .5-mile viewing loop where you can follow every step of the ballot's journey through processing, from mail sorting to ballot opening and scanning.



From the loop, you will see elections workers open the return envelope and separate the ballots from the security envelope

We have posted signs in the viewing loop to provide you with information about what you see happening in each ballot processing area. We offer all of our visitors a brochure of the facility with a map.



Watch as elections workers scan ballots for tabulation on Election Night

You can also visit our accessible voting center, which has trained staff and equipment that serves voters with disabilities or those who require assistance in order to vote privately and independently.

The February Special Election is just around the corner and offers a great opportunity to take a tour. Stop by during business hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) from January 30 to February 17. Just sign in at the check-in counter, grab a brochure, and "do the loop!"

And remember: February 14 is Election Day and ballots must be postmarked by that day or returned to a ballot drop box by 8:00 p.m. that night.

Do you belong to a group of eight or more people that would like to come take a guided tour? Contact us at 206-296-1540 to make arrangements.

For more information on visiting Elections, go to our [website](#) for a map and directions.

## Accessible voting education and outreach tools now available online

King County Elections has created tools and materials to help those involved in the disability community with voter education and outreach. We offer elections- and voting-related videos, signs, handouts, illustrations, and web widgets for download and use. Visit our accessible voting education and outreach [webpage](#) for more information and to access these resources.

## 2012

### Important Upcoming Dates

#### February 6

Deadline for in-person  
February Special Election  
registration

#### February 14

Special Election Day

#### February 28

County certification of the  
February Special Election

### No presidential primary in 2012

Washington State will not hold a presidential primary in 2012. The Washington State "Top 2" primary is August 7, 2012.

In 2011, the state suspended the 2012 presidential primary due to the cost and other factors. The state Democratic Party and the state Republican Party will use the caucus system to select delegates to the national conventions.

Contact the parties directly for information on the caucuses:

- Democratic caucuses (Sunday, April 15): [Washington State Democrats](http://WashingtonStateDemocrats.org) or 206-583-0664
- Republican caucuses (Saturday, March 3): [Washington State Republican Party](http://WashingtonStateRepublicanParty.org) or 425-460-0570

### Show your voter pride with downloadable web icons, posters, and web stickers

Want to remind people that it is election season or display an updated version of an "I Voted" sticker? Download an icon for Facebook, Twitter, or your blog and show your voter pride. We also offer web stickers and printable posters. All of these materials are available for free on our [website](http://www.kingcounty.gov/elections).



### Contact King County Elections

**In person and by mail:** 919 S.W. Grady Way, Renton, WA 98057-2906

**Phone:** 206-296-VOTE (8683) TTY: Relay: 711

**E-mail:** [elections@kingcounty.gov](mailto:elections@kingcounty.gov)

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